

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 29447 01 OF 02 070015Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-05 CU-04 NEA-10 IO-13 TRSE-00
EB-08 OMB-01 EA-10 AF-10 /127 W
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R 062050Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9951
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 29447

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: FR UR
SUBJ: BARRE VISIT TO MOSCOW -- POLITICAL ASPECTS

REF: (A) PARIS 28339; (B) MOSCOW 14462

1. AS FORESEEN, THE BARRE VISIT TO THE USSR PRODUCED FEW PRACTICAL RESULTS, ALTHOUGH THE CORDIALITY OF THE SOVIET RECEPTION GAVE IT SOME IMPORTANCE IN THE FRENCH POLITICAL CONTEXT. IN PARTICULAR, BARRE'S COUNSELOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PAYE) CONFIRMED TO POLCOUNS THAT FRENCH OBTAINED THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS PREFERRED A VICTORY BY THE GISCARD-LED MAJORITY IN NEXT SPRING'S FRENCH ELECTIONS. PAYE TOO REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO KOSYGIN'S REMARK IN A DINNER TOAST TO BARRE THAT HE HOPED TO BE SEEING BARRE AGAIN, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT REPORTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH HAD EXPECTED ONLY ONE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 29447 01 OF 02 070015Z

SESSION WITH KOSYGIN. THERE WERE ACTUALLY TWO BARRE-KOSYGIN MEETINGS, AND THE MEETING WITH BREZHNEV ALSO CAME EARLIER THAN FORESEEN. AS A RESULT THE MATIGNON SAYS BARRE IS SATISFIED WITH THE TRIP, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT MET THE FRENCH OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING BARRE'S INTERNATIONAL STATURE AND DEMONSTRATING THAT SOVIETS WISHED HIM WELL. THE PCF ORGAN L'HUMANITE HAS, OF

COURSE, TRIED TO COUNTER THE POSITIVE PUBLIC EFFECT OF BARRE MEETINGS WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP BY STRESSING THE DEARTH OF NEW AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE TRIP.

2. MATIGNON STAFFER WHO ACCOMPANIED BARRE TO MOSCOW TELLS US THAT THE VISIT WAS OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE, EXCEPT FOR THE IMPRESSION OF HEALTH AND VITALITY GIVEN BY BOTH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN. SOURCE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH BREZHNEV BUT SAW HIM PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND RECEIVED BARRE'S IMPRESSIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SESSION WITH BREZHNEV. BREZHNEV, HE SAID, WAS CLEARLY MORE VIGOROUS THAN WHEN HE VISITED PARIS LAST JUNE. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO NOTES THROUGHOUT HIS DISCUSSION WITH BARRE, IMPRESSION LEFT WAS THAT THIS WAS DONE IN NORMAL MANNER OF "A CHIEF OF STATE WHO IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS." ANOTHER MATIGNON STAFF OFFICIAL (WHO DID NOT GO ON THE TRIP) TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT BARRE ALSO SAID BREZHNEV HAD OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY SPEAKING.

3. WHILE NO POLITICAL SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE REPORTEDLY TOUCHED ON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 29447

DURING BARRE'S MEETINGS WITH KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV:

(A) US-SOVIET RELATIONS: SOVIET LEADERS VOLUNTEERED THAT THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY SAW AS THE EVOLUTION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY APPLIED IN PARTICULAR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALT TALKS, WHICH SOVIETS THOUGHT WERE MOVING IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. SOVIETS NEVERTHELESS REFLECTED SOME UNEASINESS OVER POSSIBLE US ROLE AT BELGRADE CSCE, AND WERE STILL UNCERTAIN WHAT THE US PLANNED TO DO THERE.

(B) DETENTE: BOTH SIDES EXPLAINED THEIR STANDARD POSITIONS. BARRE REITERATED THE FRENCH POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 29447 02 OF 02 070016Z

(C) NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION: MATIGNON SOURCE STRESSED THAT BREZHNEV UNDERLINED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN STEMMING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

(D) CHINA: BREZHNEV EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CHINA WHICH HE SAID DID NOT HAVE A DESIRE FOR PEACE.

(E) NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: BARRE ENCOURAGED SOVIETS TO CONTRIBUTE TO NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE, BUT SOVIETS REACTED NEGATIVELY, AS INDICATED IN REF B.

(F) MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA: THESE ISSUES WERE TOUCHED ON, WITH SOVIETS SHARING FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN MIDEAST AND CONVEYING THEIR UNEASINESS OVER WAR IN OGADEN.

4. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF VISIT WILL BE COVERED IN SEPTTEL.
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